

Association. Notably, Mr. Francis won the 2010 Investigator of the Year award given by the California District Attorney Investigator's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Francis for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. William Francis' unyielding dedication to making Napa County a safer place to live, work and raise a family is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PRIORITY-TWO
(P-2) REFUGEE IMMIGRATION
STATUS FOR AHISKA TURKS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ahiska (Meskhetian) Turkish community, a distinct minority group that has faced statelessness, discrimination, and violent attacks in the former Soviet Union for nearly 70 years. Given recent reports of active and severe persecution against Ahiska Turks in southern Russia at every socio-economic and political level because of their ethnicity and religion, I urge the U.S. Department of State to re-establish Ahiska Turks as a group of "special humanitarian concern" for Priority-Two (P-2) processing for refugee status.

The Ahiska Turks, who were uprooted and resettled from their ancestral lands in the Soviet Republic of Georgia by Stalin in 1944, have been perennial refugees since then, and unable to return to their homes. Much of the refugee community is now centered in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia, led by Governor Alexander Tkachev. The Ahiska Turk community numbers less than 19,000 in the Krasnodar region, with thousands more in the nearby Rostov region and Kabardino-Balkaria, for a total of 80,000 in all of Russia.

Between 2004 and 2007, roughly 12,000 Ahiska Turks came to the United States under a special refugee status known as P-2, settling all over the United States, including in Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and many other states. This resilient community has been able to fully integrate into American society, and has proven itself to be a great asset in their new home states by becoming entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for others.

Unfortunately, Ahiska Turks lost their P-2 status when it expired in 2007. For those who remain stateless in southern Russia, their struggles continue. The discrimination and ethnic persecution of the Ahiska Turks by the Russian authorities, as well as vigilante and Cossack paramilitary forces, has been documented by the U.S. State Department, the Russian human rights organization "Memorial," and the media, most recently The New York Times.

Furthermore, an October 2013 report by the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance, which dedicates a section to Ahiska Turks, indicated that the situation in southern Russia remains "very bad" for ethnic minori-

ties. The report also goes on to explain that human rights organizations' efforts to monitor and report on the situation have been met with "hostility by the authorities, including criminal investigations and prosecutions."

Mr. Speaker, issues of human rights and the ethnic persecution of Ahiska Turks in southern Russia remain serious concerns. Although the Ahiska Turkish diaspora, particularly in the United States, and various organizations have long advocated for renewed resettlement assistance, the international community remains largely unresponsive. Therefore, I believe that it is long past time that the State Department re-institute P-2 status for Ahiska Turks and resume the implementation of a successful program that has not only improved the lives of refugees, but also enriched the communities they joined.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL R.
MOON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Daniel R. Moon of Scout Troop 931 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Daniel Moon has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Daniel has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Daniel will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Daniel's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Daniel Moon on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY CIESLA

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's 4th Congressional District is home to countless special people and businesses. Today I rise to honor Larry Ciesla, one of those special people who has made a major impact at Intrado, Inc., a company in my district that has played a significant role in providing our country's 9-1-1 emergency system. This month, Larry will retire after more than 40 years in this mission-critical industry.

Larry began his telecommunications career as an engineer with Western Electric, which later morphed into Bell Labs, AT&T Technologies and eventually Lucent Technologies. Before and after Intrado acquired Lucent's Public Safety Division, Lucent's switch engineers recognized Larry's special capabilities and came to respect his expertise in 9-1-1 switching functionality—presenting Larry with the Bell System's prestigious "Distinguished Member of Technical Staff" award. It was in those early years when Larry's visionary participation in standards development and his pioneering contributions led to the technical foundation for what we all know today as Enhanced 9-1-1 service.

Larry can count among his accomplishments his role as the chief architect of the AT&T E9-1-1 database management system, his leadership in developing a geo-spatial 9-1-1 database which was a precursor for locating mobile 9-1-1 callers used today, and his co-authorship of the technical paper that defined the method used today for routing wireless 9-1-1 calls—ensuring that those calls for help at a time of need are delivered to the appropriate public safety agency.

Larry is credited as an inventor or co-inventor of multiple U.S. Patents, including a method for expanded communications in a telecom network and an E9-1-1 architecture for Internet telephony.

Always content to work behind the scenes, Larry has been an unsung hero—responsible for saving countless lives in his four decades on the job. On behalf of all Americans, I commend Larry Ciesla for his dedication, his outstanding contributions, and his impactful service to his country and its citizens.

HONORING MS. MANISHA HEARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young woman, Ms. Manisha Heard. Born to Mr. Steve Campbell and Ms. Jean Heard, Manisha was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, Manisha was an outstanding young woman who was deeply involved in her community and church home. She regularly attends Church of God In Christ and is active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.